

12/6/2019

RE: [External] Apologies again, plus a quest for more con... - Brad McElhinny

RE: [External] Apologies again, plus a quest for more context

Messina, Lawrence C <Lawrence.C.Messina@wv.gov>

Fri 12/6/2019 8:22 AM

To:Brad McElhinny <Brad.McElhinny@wvradio.com>;

Good morning. I apologize for the delay. In response to your pending questions:

Q1. Is this the most recent basic training class for Corrections?

ANSWER: Yes

Q1a. What kind of jobs were they being trained for?

ANSWER: As correctional officers except for the two non-uniformed individuals who were trained as staff.

Q1b. What was to be the next step in their employment?

ANSWER: assignments to facilities.

Q2. What were the circumstances of this photo?

ANSWER: candid class photo

Q2a. Is there usually a group photo upon the completion of training?

ANSWER: Yes

Q2b. Who is the photographer, the person who can't be seen here?

ANSWER: A state employee. Further information is pending the investigation.

Q3. Can you provide any more information about the context of the salute? What explanation, if any, has been given by those pictured?

ANSWER: Further information beyond what has already been provided is pending the investigation.

Q4. The explanation of Byrd is that is an individual involved in the training program, but can you provide details beyond that? Is Byrd a class member? An instructor?

ANSWER: The individual was a training instructor for the class.

Q5. How and why would the photo have ended up with state logos?

ANSWER: Further information is pending the investigation.

Q6. How was it discovered by DMAPS and the administration?

ANSWER: A preliminary notification of a possible incident was provided to the commissioner of DCR. It was relayed to the Secretary's office and then the Governor's Office. The governor immediately ordered a full investigation be completed. Preliminary findings from the investigation were relayed to the Governor's Office Thursday (12/5) before his statement was issued. The investigation is still underway.

Q6a. Were other copies distributed to class members or anyone else?

ANSWER: To class members, as the memo indicates. Further information is pending the investigation.

Q7. The letter from Secretary Sandy makes reference to suspensions, but the statement from the governor alludes to firings. Can you describe the current status of those affected or the steps to be taken to alter their employment status?

ANSWER: The suspensions are suspensions pending investigation as described in the administrative rule. It is for purposes of gathering information to determine appropriate disciplinary action up to and including dismissal.

Lawrence Messina
M: 304.205.3037
O: 304.957.2515